

**Morgan County Commission Meeting
October 18, 2017**

Members present:

Commissioner Joel Tuttle, President
Commissioner Robert Ford
Commissioner Ken Reed

Staff present: Jody McClintock, County Administrator; Kristy Farris Somers,
Commission Secretary

Public Present: See attached sign in sheet

The meeting was opened by Kimberly Nickles, Honorable County Clerk, at 9:30am

Assessor's Exonerations:

Taxpayer Error- 3 Exonerations

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the three exonerations due to taxpayer error. President Tuttle voted nay, Commissioner Ford voted nay and Commissioner Reed voted nay. Motion denied.

Clerical Error- 9 Exonerations

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the nine exonerations due to clerical error. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the October 4th County Commission Meeting. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

K.C. Bohrer- Approval to hire Sheriff Deputy:

K.C. Bohrer, Morgan County Sheriff, approached the Morgan County Commission to announce that Steve Moreland has been hired as a Deputy and has been sworn in to start the position on November 1, 2017. Sheriff Bohrer stated that the Sheriff's Department has received six applications for Mr. Moreland's former position. Sheriff Bohrer also stated that there will be an unclaimed/forfeiture property auction on Saturday October 21, 2017 at 9:30am at the Pines Center Opportunity center.

Resolution for RMPG Grant:

Commissioner Reed made a motion to support the West Virginia Records Management and Preservation Board Grant Program. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Re-appointment to Morgan County Emergency Service Board- Larry Mann:

Commissioner Ford made a motion to re-appoint Larry Mann to the Morgan County Emergency Medical Services Board for a three year term. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried. This appointment is effective immediately and will expire October 1, 2020.

Reports:

Jeanne Mozier- Travel Berkeley Springs Annual Report

Jeanne Mozier representing Travel Berkeley Springs, approached the Morgan County Commission to give an annual report. Ms. Mozier stated that reports show visitors spending than a 7% increase over year 2016. Total hotel/motel tax revenue collected by the town and county amounted to more than \$188,000, a 9% increase over the previous year. Laura Smith, Travel Berkeley Springs approached the County Commission and explained that the website is very active and gets around 11,000 hits, with weekly messages averaging of 1200 people from marketing, advertising and video. Ms. Smith stated that Southern Living Magazine named Berkeley Springs the best vacation spot in West Virginia. Ms. Mozier also stated that at least 40 members attend their annual meetings. President Tuttle thanked Ms. Mozier and Ms. Smith for all of their hard work and time.

Agenda Items:

Zachary Caldwell, 911 Director - Create and Adopt a policy for Next-In-Line Wreckers Rotation per code 24-16-12.

Commissioner Ford made a motion to adopt the policy concerning Common Motor for Next- In-Line Wrecker Rotation per code WV -24-16-12. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Personal discussion concerning County Administrator position, possible executive session

President Tuttle explained that Jody McClintock, County Administrator has submitted her resignation. Ms. McClintock's last day will be October 27, 2017. The County Commission will post an ad in the Morgan Messenger advertising for a County Administrator and will be accepting applications through October 27, 2017.

Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the consent agenda. President Tuttle voted yea; Commissioner Ford voted yea; and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Administrators Report:

Approval of Invoice 10 for Concept Designs

Commissioner Ford made a motion to table the approval of Invoice 10 for Concepts Designs until the next meeting on November 1, 2017. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Approval to hire Deputy 911 Director:

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the hiring of a Deputy 911 Director. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Recess:

President Tuttle made a motion to recess the meeting. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried

1:00pm Public Hearing:**Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance**

The Morgan County Commission held a public hearing to obtain comments regarding amendments to the Hotel/Motel tax ordinance.

President Tuttle opened up the meeting for comments and concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance.

Public Comments

Siri Sopher, I own two cabins in Coolfont,- I am opposed to the increase. We don't have as much attraction to our town as other towns and we should keep our rental fees low to attract business. Need to keep taxes low as possible so we can keep our rates low.

Sally Brinkman, I own Homestead (farmhouse)

We hire local help, if we can't rent because the expenses are too high we can't hire help.

Stephanie Rebant, Travel Berkeley Springs and Berkeley Springs Cottage

Rentals- Explained rental service Air B&B and how it is hard for Morgan County to track lodging and expenses through the rental service. Make Air B&B give you a list of the properties they rent in Morgan County so you can collect taxes.

Commissioner Ford- We have tried to find the people renting that are not paying taxes for it.

Jeanne Mozier- If you raise the tax 2% people will just go else where to rent. They will rent from the folks that don't pay hotel/motel tax. The increased fee you want to raise can be gotten from people that don't pay. You are spending 50% of the hotel/motel tax money on Parks & Recreation.

Matt and Andy Ompps Country Inn, Best Western- Breezewood PA. charges 8% total tax and Winchester VA. charges 7.8% total tax these are our biggest competition. 90% of the people keep coming back here. If you keep raising the price, they will go elsewhere. We are strongly opposed to raising the fee.

Tom Zahnow- Supports the increase. Have been for the increase for a while. I disagree with Jeanne Mozier, when people go out of town, we have to pay the rate for a room. It helps the communities and helps the communities pay for their facilities. Why do we have to go other places and pay their rates and people not come to stay and pay our rates.

Commissioner Reed – Extremely accessible to the public and I get bombarded with the issue of dilapidated buildings, I even have the ordinance on our website . I am going to lobby to put together a beautification fund to have 1% put in the fund to tear these buildings down.

Tom Zahnow- If the Air B&B is such a big problem, maybe the hotel/motel establishments can help the county by reporting the places that aren't paying the hotel/motel tax.

Barb Wolf- Your penalizing the people that are renting and paying the hotel/motel tax correctly.

President Tuttle- At the end of the day, we just want to make the community better for the public and our citizens.

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the proposed Amendment to Section Three- Rate of Tax, Imposition and Exceptions, relates to removal of statement: "Provided, that the tax shall not be imposed on any consumer occupying a hotel room for thirty (30) or more consecutive days;" effective immediately. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve the increase of the Hotel/Motel tax from four percent (4) to six percent (6%) effective January 1, 2018. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford vote yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Recess

President Tuttle made a motion to recess the meeting. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried



Morgan County Commission
77 Fairfax Street, Room 101
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411
304-258-8540

- COMMISSIONERS-

Joel Tuttle
134 Ridgewood Trail
Berkeley Springs
WV 25411
304-258-7958

Robert Ford
9 Barbecue Drive
Berkeley Springs
WV 25411
304-258-4178

Ken Reed
4253 Martinsburg Rd
Berkeley Springs
WV 25411
304-258-8540

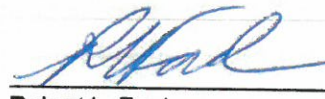
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS; The Morgan County Commission is in support of the West Virginia Records Management and Preservation Board Grant Program (RMPB);

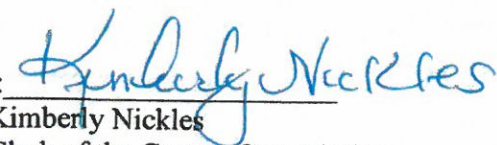
WHEREAS; The Morgan County Commission is committed to providing the 10% cash match funds requirement for the RMPB FY2018-2019 grant applications for the Assessor's Office and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office applications;

THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED; This 18th day of October 2017 that the Morgan County Commission authorizes Joel Tuttle, President, as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the West Virginia Records Management and Preservation Board Grant Program.


Joel Tuttle, President
Morgan County Commission


Robert L. Ford
Morgan County Commission


Ken Reed
Morgan County Commission

ATTEST: 
Kimberly Nickles
Clerk of the County Commission

Morgan County Commission

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE: Oct 18, 2017				Sheet: _____	Of: _____
NO.	NAME	REPRESENTING	PHONE #	E-MAIL ADDRESS	
1	LORITILEY	Self			
2	KC BOHRER	JH21FF			
3	Kate Shanna	Morgan Messenger			
4	Lorraine Canoles	Steele's			
5	Leslie Canoles	Steele's			
6	Laura Smith	TBS			
7	James M. Miller	TBS			
8	Z. McDowell	9-1-1			
9	Jimmy Farris	Rays SC			
10	Buffy Farris	Rays SC			
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Public 1.00pm
Hotel/Motel/Tax

Morgan County Commission

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE: OCT 18, 2017				Sheet:	Of:
NO.	NAME	REPRESENTING	PHONE #	E-MAIL ADDRESS	
1	Irish Steader	Journal			
2	Stephanie Rehart	TBS	258-5300	Srehart@bestwestern.com	
3	SPRI JO PHAR	TROLL VALLEY	258-4836	trollvalley@comcast.net	
4	Shelly Brinkman	Old Homestead	258-2830	217 Linden Farm Lane B.S.	
5	Conn Gallant	Bella Maltini B.B.	304-258-4037	thebellamattina@gmail.com	
6	Matt Omps	Best Western + County Inn	258-1200	thecountyinnatframe.com	
7	Andrew Omp	Best Western / County Inn	258-8024	salsci@bestwesternbestcityspring.com	
8	Susan Wehner	B&V	258-1312		
9	BARB WOLFE	TBS			
10	Tom Zalkin	-	304-882-8023		
11	Sam Morris	TBS			
12	Laura Smith	TBS			
13	Ench May	MC Schools			
14	Lee Kilgus	Self			
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2:30pm Public hearing for Small Cities Block Grant

Members present:

Commissioner Joel Tuttle, President
Commissioner Robert Ford
Commissioner Ken Reed

Also Present: Jody McClintock, County Administrator; Ginger Johnson, Planning Assistant; Kristy Farris Somers, Commission Secretary, Kimberly Nickles, County Clerk.

Public Present: See attached sign in sheet.

Present Tuttle opened the meeting up for public comments regarding the Commission's grant application for the Community Development Block Grant. The funds will be used for broadband expansion. This process is to allow for the identification of all local interests and need for receiving assistance as part of the planning process as well as 504 housing and broadband issues.

Commissioner Ford spoke to the public and explained that the Commission has already had one public hearing for the Small Cities Block Grant and have provided all documents on the County Website for public viewing.

Public Comments

Kate Shunney, Morgan Messenger- If you get the planning grant, will there be direction on how to obtain the planner for the project?

Ron Martin- Received a letter that next spring the County will offer access to county towers next spring. Is this going to happen?

Commissioner Ford- Not for sure at this time.

Stefanie Allemong, Grant Administrator- Read aloud the projected schedule for the grant funding and grant project.

Commissioner Ford made a motion to authorize Joel Tuttle, President, Morgan County Commission approval to sign the needed documents for the submittal of Small Cities Block Grant. The documents include: Section 3 Compliance, Section 5- Assurances, Citizens Participation Plan, Hud Disclosures, SAM/Duns Registration, Resolutions #2, Fair Housing Resolution, Section 504/ADA Compliancy, Code of Conduct, Procurement Standards. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Recess

President Tuttle made a motion to recess meeting. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

SCBG

Broadband

Morgan County Commission

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE: Oct 18 2017				Sheet: Of:
NO.	NAME	REPRESENTING	PHONE #	E-MAIL ADDRESS
1	Bill Ciel	Regin 9	207-243-1773	billciel@regin9.com
2	Stefanie Altemore	Commission	304-876-3135	
3	Kevin Bales	Self	258-1013	
4	Lawrence Thomas	Self	304-258-7951	thomhouse@mon.com
5	Ron Martin	Self	304-258-4402	
6	Mac Donnell	Self	304-955-8417	
7	Josh Strader	media/news		
8	Kate Shumney	Morgan Messenger		
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